

27 July 1943

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 1800 hrs 27 July 1943.

ENEMY:

1. Air Activity:
 - a. No enemy planes were over the area about HINES BEACH during the day, but frequent sightings of friendly planes were made.
 2. a. A Jap wire party salvaging wire was encountered by Co. K patrol on Roosevelt Ridge today. The Japs withdrew.
 - b. Co. K patrols encountered well dug in Jap emplacements with machine guns on ROOSEVELT RIDGE.
 - c. Co. I met enemy opposition about 737944.
 - d. 218 FA Bn was shelled intermittently during the afternoon by the enemy field piece on ROOSEVELT RIDGE, more than 10 rounds being fired. One round lit within 50 yards of a kitchen, and there were many close ones along the beach. Wire lines were taken out by this shelling, resulting in interruption of most of wire communications north for several hours.
 - e. In firing yesterday on the Jap field piece, Capt Martin, observing, laid 10 volleys from Btry C 205 FA Bn right on the spot where the smoke cloud rose. However, the gun appears to be either in a cave, or under a ledge, as its location is a dark patch on the lighter colored hill. It is located in a saddle. Its manner of operation is to fire a few rounds, then pull back or under cover, from best evidence available. Contrary to first belief, it is now thought this gun does not move about, as firing from other points is now believed to have been from mortars.
 - f. Jap artillery fire on COANE BEACH delayed landing of the first mission of LCVs, resulting in delay of entire schedule. Second mission departed at 2230/27 from NASSAU BEACH.

OWN TROOPS:

1. Air Activity:
 - a. Replying to our message yesterday regarding Wirraways being invariably followed up by bombers, 3 Div replied that the Wirraways are following standard message dropping procedure, and otherwise cannot deliver needed maps. They ascribe the appearance of enemy bombers immediately subsequent to appearance of Wirraway or in area to coincidence.
 - b. 0900/27 18 B-25s bombed SALAMAUA.
 - c. After a bombing of SALAMAUA late in the morning by B/24s, an artillery OP reported a large column of dense smoke about 2000 feet high, as if a fuel dump had been struck.
 - d. An aircraft that had crashed 2 miles up the TABALI RIVER was found today by natives, who brought in an American liferaft from it. No bodies were nearby. A searching party will go from NASSAU BEACH, several men reported seeing an unidentified plane flying very low with its prop idling, appearing to be searching the ground for something.
2. a. At approximately 0710 hrs 218FA position were shelled. Shells fell short and some fell in the sea. No damage reported, with intermittent shelling continued at 1900 hrs.
- b. Co. K Patrolling south slope of ROOSEVELT RIDGE with listening post at 751942.
- c. Co. E supported by artillery fire inflicted heavy enemy losses and dug in at 740944.
- d. Co. L encountered slight enemy opposition on scout track. Established ambush position at 736946, and 738951.
- e. 2 platoons of Co. L and one platoon of PIB attacked enemy position at 725927 with heavy enemy casualties. Co. L established ambush position at 735947.



S O U T H

O C E A N

162
162
162
A. or Roosevelt Ridge
B. Ridge
C. Ridge
D. Ridge
E. Ridge
F. Ridge
G. Ridge
H. Ridge
I. Ridge
J. Ridge
K. Ridge
L. Ridge
M. Ridge
N. Ridge
O. Ridge
P. Ridge
Q. Ridge
R. Ridge
S. Ridge
T. Ridge
U. Ridge
V. Ridge
W. Ridge
X. Ridge
Y. Ridge
Z. Ridge

TAMBU BAY

VEERN BAY

MT. TAMBU

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100
200
300
400
500

20

junction between SCOUT RIDGE and ROOSEVELT RIDGE. This area was discovered until much later and after ROOSEVELT RIDGE had been captured. It was similarly discovered that the so-called SCOUT HILL-MT. TAMBU RIDGE was in fact south of ROOSEVELT RIDGE by deep canyons and that actually there was no connection between these two features although there appeared to be such connections on the map and on the airplane photos.

On July 24 "L" Company moved to the top of SCOUT RIDGE with the mission of locating and contacting a PIB platoon, supposedly south of "L" Company on SCOUT RIDGE, and to take over "I" Company's mission south of a line extending due east of BOISI.

79. The situation of the 3d Battalion for the ensuing days was as follows:

The 81mm mortars were established near the Bn Hq on the north-eastern edge of BOISI from where they delivered sporadic harrassing fire and fired on targets of opportunity in conjunction with the artillery.

One Platoon of HMG's was attached to "I" Company and one section for defense of the beach under battalion control.

"L" Company established a perimeter due east of BOISI on SCOUT RIDGE. One platoon was pushed out south towards MT. TAMBU. This platoon encountered a Japanese fighting patrol advancing northwards on the SCOUT HILL TRAIL. The platoon leader exhibited great skill in handling his men, dispersed the Japanese patrol, and continued until halted by a superior force of Japanese well established across the trail.

The platoon established a perimeter and thereafter continued harrassing activities against the Jap position to such a degree that Japanese aggressiveness against it soon ceased.

During one engagement a Japanese officer was killed, and on his person was found a map showing all our artillery positions with great accuracy.

80. Forward elements of "I" Company advanced north about 2000 yards along SCOUT RIDGE from its original position and encountered strong resistance from a well dug in Japanese position, which among other weapons contained a 70mm howitzer used quite effectively against our artillery and against the "I" Company position. "I" Company then established a perimeter, which was attacked several times by the Japanese before they gave up the attempt to drive out our troops.

By 30 July all units of the 2d Bn had arrived and started activity against ROOSEVELT RIDGE.

"K" Company moved to SCOUT RIDGE. "I" Company had moved north to position 500 yards south of junction of SCOUT TRACK and ROOSEVELT RIDGE, where it encountered a strongly organized enemy position.

From July 30 to August 13 the 3d Bn remained in position along SCOUT RIDGE with the 81mm mortars installed on the east slope of SCOUT RIDGE about 500 yards from the so-called junction of SCOUT and ROOSEVELT RIDGES.

During this period inter-company reliefs were effected, and several assaults were made on Japanese positions on SCOUT and ROOSEVELT RIDGES. These assaults were beaten off by the enemy and the positions remained static.

On August 13th Company "I" was moved from the position it held in Bn reserve and relieved "F" Company (2d Bn) and the Cannon Company at the western end of ROOSEVELT RIDGE.

This left "L" Company still facing north on SCOUT RIDGE and opposing a Japanese position about 400 yards south of the so-called junction of ROOSEVELT and SCOUT RIDGES.

81. Between August 13th and August 29th further attacks were carried out against the enemy positions in front of "I" and "L" Companies.

During this period several combat patrols were sent north from "K" Company against the strong Japanese position at the ROOSEVELT RIDGE and "B" Ridge junction.

Assisted by massed mortar fire of both the 2d and 3d Bn Heavy Weapons Companies, severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

These enveloping tactics of Company "K", organized into a platoon

18 July "I" and "L" Companies moved out carrying two days rations and one unit of fire. Information from the PIB that these units could reach their initial objective by 1700 hours proved erroneous, and due to rugged terrain and the fact that there proved to be no secret trail, two days were required. By this time rations were almost gone. Many of the men's shoes were unserviceable, and "I" Company was still a day's march from its objective. "K" Company moved forward the morning of the 18 July, but when it became evident that the other units could not reach their destinations "K" Company was held in a forward assembly area vicinity of 784906.

Plans were completed and orders issued by phone through use of a prearranged code and jump off time for "K" Company set at 0700 hours 20 July.

It is worth noting that in spite of most difficult terrain the Battalion Communication Section performed the nearly impossible task of keeping 110 wire up with all units then and through the entire campaign.

76. On the morning of 20 July "K" Company moved on schedule and successfully knocked out Jap OP and machine guns, killing four Japs. They then continued with their mission and reached the south edge of BOISI Village about 1400 hours. The advance continued, and when the advance guard had nearly passed through the village and the remainder of the company was just entering the Japs opened up with heavy mortars and artillery from ROOSEVELT RIDGE about 1500 yards distant. In spite of the heavy fire splendid work on the part of the Company Commander, though seriously wounded himself, prevented excessive casualties. Artillery fire from COCHRAN Beach was immediately employed and enemy guns silenced. "K" Company reorganized and dug in on the south edge of the village. The Bn CO with forward CP personnel moved forward and set up on the south side of TAMBU BAY. At 1500 hours Coane Force directed the Bn CO to move "I" and "L" Companies into TAMBU BAY. Though completely worn out from two days of forced marching, those units moved at once and reached the swamp south of BOISI by 2100 hours.

Supplies, consisting of rations, ammunition, weapons and the AT Co were moved in by LCV's the night of 20/21 July and landed south of TAMBU BAY.

77. The following day the Battalion under cover of artillery fire moved into TAMBU BAY and set up defensive positions. Cal.50 MG's and 37mm AT guns were installed as beach defense, and a battery of CA (AA) Bofors and twin .50's were set up. Shore party of Amphibious Engineers established beach landing positions, and the night of 21 July supplies were unloaded at BOISI Village.

Japanese machine guns and mortars fired on boats and beach parties, but no casualties were suffered.

78. Night of 21 July Bn CO prepared plans and issued orders for attack up ROOSEVELT RIDGE. The attack started 0700 hours 22 July with "K" Company on the right and "L" Company on the left, "I" Company in reserve. Artillery fired concentrations prior to jump off. Company "M" mortars emplaced north of BOISI prepared to support the attack. "F" Company (Coane Force reserve) had been ordered to patrol artillery installations and Force Hq at COANE and COCHRAN beaches.

The attack on ROOSEVELT RIDGE was unsuccessful. The sides of the ridge were so steep that the men were forced to ascend hand over hand, and near the top the Japs rolled down grenades and mortar shells on our troops and delivered heavy rifle and automatic weapons fire from well placed and well dug, cleverly concealed positions.

On July 23 "I" Company was moved to the top of SCOUT HILL-MT. TAMBU connecting ridge (hereinafter called SCOUT RIDGE) with orders to verify the existence of SCOUT RIDGE TRAIL, and if found patrol said trail to the south toward MT. TAMBU until contact was established with the Japanese and to the north to advance to the junction of SCOUT RIDGE and ROOSEVELT RIDGE, overpowering any Jap resistance met in obtaining this objective. For purposes of clarification it can be stated here that later developments proved that there was no actual

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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

GENERAL ORDERS)
NO.....52)

E X T R A C T

A.P.O. 501
12 June 1944

DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS--Award..... Section I

* * *
I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bulletin No. 43, WD, 1918), the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the Far East, to the following named enlisted man:

Sergeant LEONARD C. DeWITT, (20933467), Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Boise, New Guinea, on 28 July 1943. When an infantry company encountered a large enemy force in a well-organized perimeter and took a stand on top of a ridge to hold the ground gained until reinforcements arrived, Sergeant DeWitt voluntarily carried ammunition and grenades to the besieged force, despite the fact that the enemy, following an artillery barrage, had launched a machine gun attack. He found two wounded men in a position adjacent to the attacked area, and after aiding in evacuating them, returned to prevent a possible enemy break-through. Enemy troops were massed in a gully only five yards from his position. He directed automatic rifle fire at the enemy position until his ammunition was exhausted, then seized a submachine gun and stood fully exposed on the brink of the gully, firing with deadly accuracy and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. When this ammunition was also exhausted, he threw his remaining grenades. Slipping over the edge of the gully and colliding with an enemy soldier, he threw his helmet, injuring the soldier and demoralizing enemy troops in the vicinity. By his daring, Sergeant DeWitt forestalled an enemy break-through and prevented heavier casualties and possible loss of the position.

Home address: Mr. Leonard D. DeWitt (father), Box 967, Olympia, Washington.

FEKD 200.6

By command of General MacARTHUR:

OFFICIAL:

/s/ L. S. Ostrander
L. S. OSTRANDER,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Adjutant General.

R. K. SUTHERLAND,
Lieutenant General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

J. L. Swanson
J. L. SWANSON,
Captain, A. G. D.,

~~RESTRICTED BY THE DECORATIONS BOARD~~

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RESTRICTED

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DVA 11

BASIC: Ltr, 162d Inf, file 210.5, subj: "Recommendation for Award of Decoration",
dtd 9 Mar 44.

AG 201-DeWitt, Leonard C.
(9 Mar 44)AG-PA


3d Ind.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC, APO 500, 11 August 1945.

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

Attention is invited to award of the Distinguished Service Cross announced in General Orders No. 52, Headquarters, United States Army Forces in the Far East, dated 12 June 1944, certified true extract copy attached, which was awarded on the basis of this recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor.

For the Commander-in-Chief:


L. E. NORRIS,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

5 Incls:

Incl 1 to 4 - n/c

ADDED :

Incl 5 - Certified True Extract
Copy of GO 52, Hq, USAFFE,
dtd 12 Jun 44.

CONTAINED IN THE DECORATION FILE

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RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NO.....52)

A.P.O. 501
12 June 1944

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DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS--Award.....	I
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I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bulletin No. 43, WD, 1918), the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the Far East, to the following named enlisted man:

Sergeant LEONARD C. DeWITT; (20933467), Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Boise, New Guinea, on 28 July 1943. When an infantry company encountered a large enemy force in a well-organized perimeter and took a stand on top of a ridge to hold the ground gained until reinforcements arrived, Sergeant DeWitt voluntarily carried ammunition and grenades to the besieged force, despite the fact that the enemy, following an artillery barrage, had launched a machine gun attack. He found two wounded men in a position adjacent to the attacked area, and after aiding in evacuating them, returned to prevent a possible enemy break-through. Enemy troops were massed in a gully only five yards from his position. He directed automatic rifle fire at the enemy position until his ammunition was exhausted, then seized a submachine gun and stood fully exposed on the brink of the gully, firing with deadly accuracy and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. When this ammunition was also exhausted, he threw his remaining grenades. Slipping over the edge of the gully and colliding with an enemy soldier, he threw his helmet, injuring the soldier and demoralizing enemy troops in the vicinity. By his daring, Sergeant DeWitt forestalled an enemy break-through and prevented heavier casualties and possible loss of the position.
Home address: Mr. Leonard D. DeWitt (father), Box 967, Olympia, Washington.

II. LEGION OF MERIT. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (Sec. III, Bull. 40, WD, 1942), and Executive Order No. 9260, 29 October 1942 (Sec. I, Bull. 54, WD, 1942), the Legion of Merit is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the Far East, to the following named officers and enlisted man:

Major BARRON O. HOUSEL, JR.; (0310190), Air Corps, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in the Southwest Pacific area from 29 April 1942 to 20 March 1944.
Home address: 1715 Huntington Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Technical Sergeant ROBERT D. LOUX, (39162821), Air Corps, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstan

